

REMARKS

Upon entry of the amendments, claims 4, 8, 11-16 will be pending in the application. The Examiner indicated in the Advisory Action mailed September 5, 2003 that these claims were allowed. Therefore, Applicants have amended the claims to place them into independent form where needed and to cancel the rejected and withdrawn claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4, 7, 8, and 11-16 were rejected as obvious in view of Applicant's acknowledged state of the art in view of Seibel (US 3,364,056). Claims 1-3 and 7 have been canceled. It is noted that the Examiner states that claims 4, 8, and 11-16 are allowable in "view of the fact that the prior art does not teach applying the halogen at a reduced pressure".

CONCLUSION

Applicant earnestly awaits allowance of the application. If any additional fees are due in connection with the filing of this response, such as fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 02-4300. Any overpayment can be credited to Deposit Account No. 02-4300.

Respectfully submitted,

SMITH, GAMBRELL & RUSSELL, LLP

Dated: November 26, 2003

By: 

Brandon Boss, Reg. No. 46,567*
1850 M Street, N.W., Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20036
Telephone: (202) 659-2811
Facsimile: (202) 263-4392

* Practice is limited to matters and proceeding before federal courts and agencies.